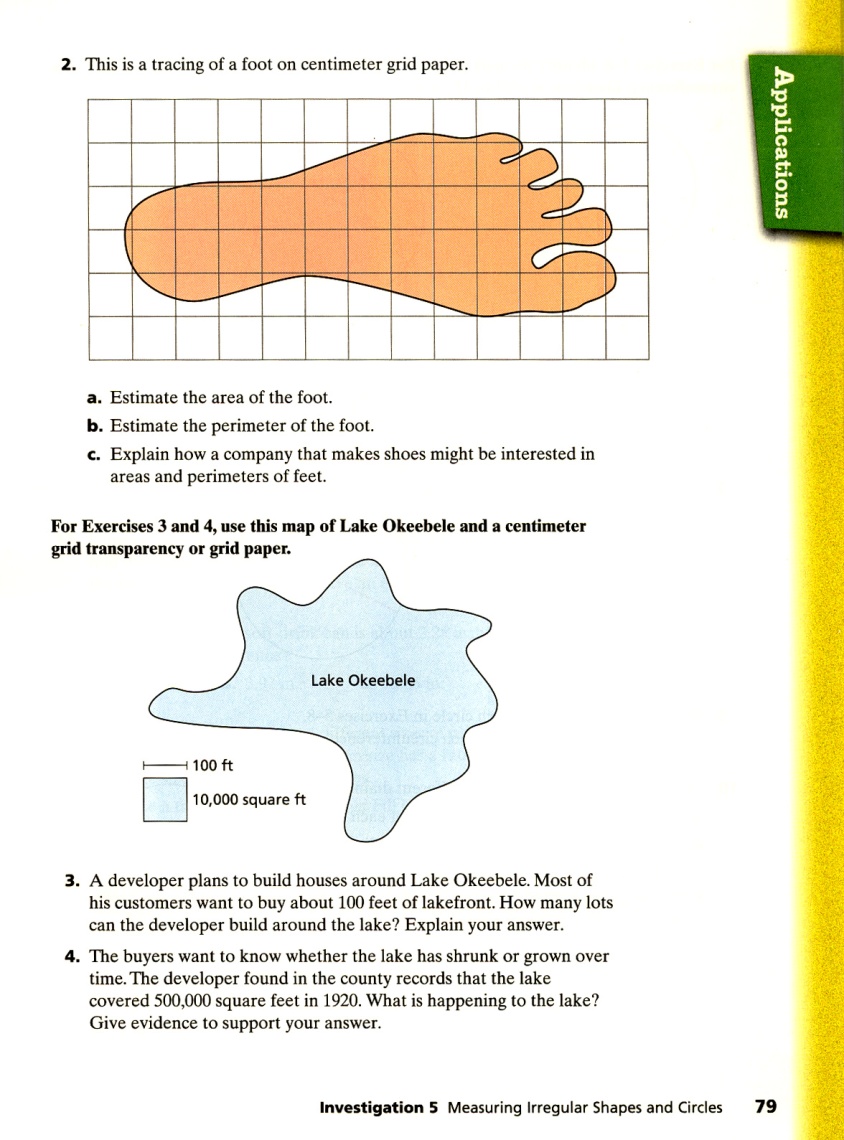
Math Reflection

This year in math we used Connected Math 2 for our text book. This system is very different than other ones we have used in the past. It is made up of eight different units. We have completed six out of the eight. The units we have gone over are Bits and Pieces 1, 2 and 3, Covering and Surrounding, Shapes and Designs, and Prime Time. There are four to five different chapters in each book, and there are at least four different Investigations to each chapter. Each Investigation has four or five different points in them. Each point has one thing that it focuses on. Each day in math we go over one different point a day. Then we have homework in the homework section. The homework section is called ACE, or Applications, Connections, and Extensions. We may have three to thirty problems a day. We usually do not have homework on Friday. The next day we go over the homework from the night before. Here is an example of an actual ACE page from Shapes and Designs:



Every thing that we work on, including the things we work on in school and for homework, we record in our notebooks. There are three different sections in our notebook. One section is called “Class work” or “Journal”; this section has all of the stuff we worked on in class in it. The second one is called “Homework”; this section has all of our homework in it. The last section is called “Assessments”; this section has all of our graded pieces in it. We also have a notebook that we keep the vocabulary words in. when we are reading in our book, each vocab word will be highlighted in yellow, then we proceed to the vocab sections at the back of our book, and copy the definition of all of the words in our notebooks. All these three sections in our notebook are there to help us organize all of our work. It also helps us if we have an open book quiz or test. In our notebooks we also have our math book, assignment list, pencil pouch, and lab sheets. Lab sheets are papers that either helps us with a certain point in that chapter, or they help us with homework for that night. Another reason why we have the different sections is to draw conclusions to understand why the formulas and algorithms work.

One major thing at the beginning of each unit is the “Focus Questions”. These questions do many things. One thing they do is reflect the major mathematical goal(s) of the unit. This lets us know what type of problems we will face during this unit. The second thing they do is get us curious about the unit ahead. This makes us want to open the book and look and see what’s inside, and what problems we will have to figure out. They also provide example questions that we think about a little. Those questions will also come up during the unit in an Investigation, or as homework.

Another major thing that is at the beginning of each chapter is Mathematical Highlights. This previews important ideas of the unit. They also help us to follow where we are in the unit and how much is left. Another thing they do is that they provide us with a base of what we will be learning about in the following unit. The Highlights is also a place where parents can refer to if they want to know what the unit is about, and find the main ideas of the unit. These are some examples of unit openers:

What major property of hexagons makes it a good shape for the cells in a honeycomb?



Why do some shapes occur more often than other shapes in rug and quilt designs?



My favorite unit was Shapes and Designs. I liked this unit because we got to learn about many different polygons. Some of those polygons are; triangles, squares, rectangles, parallelograms, pentagons, hexagons, heptagons, nonagons, regular polygons, and irregular polygons. I also liked it because we learned what shapes are found in the real world. One example of this is what shapes tessellate, or tile. Another reason I liked this unit is because we got to learn about angles and how they relate to different shapes. We also learned how to use an angle rule to measure angles. We also used protractors. I learned so many things for example; I learned why triangles are the best shape to build structures with and why they are so stable. I connected the concepts in this unit to my life by looking at buildings and finding different shapes in them. I also found different angles in my daily life. One angle that I find a lot is the 90° angle. You can find this angle on any rectangle or square, such as a door, table, computer, and book.



Bibliography

Picture of bee

http://images.pictureshunt.com/pics/b/bee\_in\_honeycomb-2858.png

Picture of quilt

<http://z.about.com/d/quilting/1/5/S/8/-/-/rag_quilt_layout_2.jpg>

Picture of ACE page

<http://connectedmath.msu.edu/pnd/images/covering/covering_ace_2.jpg>

Picture of computer from clip art